

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
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To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Changes for the University of Nevada Las Vegas Fire Position GS-0401
Certification Program.

Purpose: The following information outlines recent changes in the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) Fire Position GS-0401 Certification Program and introduces tools available to assist supervisors and participants. The documents and information referenced below have been posted on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Training Unit's web site at <http://www.fire.blm.gov/training/blmtrng/blmtrng.html>.

1. The UNLV faculty and the BLM Training Unit have agreed to replace the Animal Behavior course with Biogeography. The theories and principles taught in Biogeography will provide more practical relevance and the course content is more in line with overall program goals.
2. A Program Completion Agreement and the associated Completion Agreement Procedures are now available on the BLM Training Unit web site. This is an optional agreement that may be used by the student's supervisor and/or chain of command. It is recognized that this career training opportunity is a significant investment in terms of both time and money to the BLM. If used, the agreement will need to be initiated and administered by the office responsible for sending the student to the program. The intent of the Completion Agreement Procedures is to provide consistent guidance on the enforcement of the agreement.
3. The credits earned by attending the two lower division courses, Fundamentals of Life Science and Principles of Modern Biology II, will change from four (4) credits each to three (3) credits each. The change is due to the reduced lab times spent in each class

required to meet the compressed two-week timeframes. If all program modules are successfully completed, the total credits earned will be 24; six (6) lower division credits and 18 upper division credits. This combination of credits meets the Supplemental Qualification Standard for GS-0401 Fire Management Specialist.

4. A Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and UNLV regarding this program is available for reference on the above mentioned web site.

Timeframe: Effective immediately.

Contact: If you have questions, please contact Aitor Bidaburu at (208) 387-5334 or [Aitor Bidaburu@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:Aitor.Bidaburu@nifc.blm.gov).

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